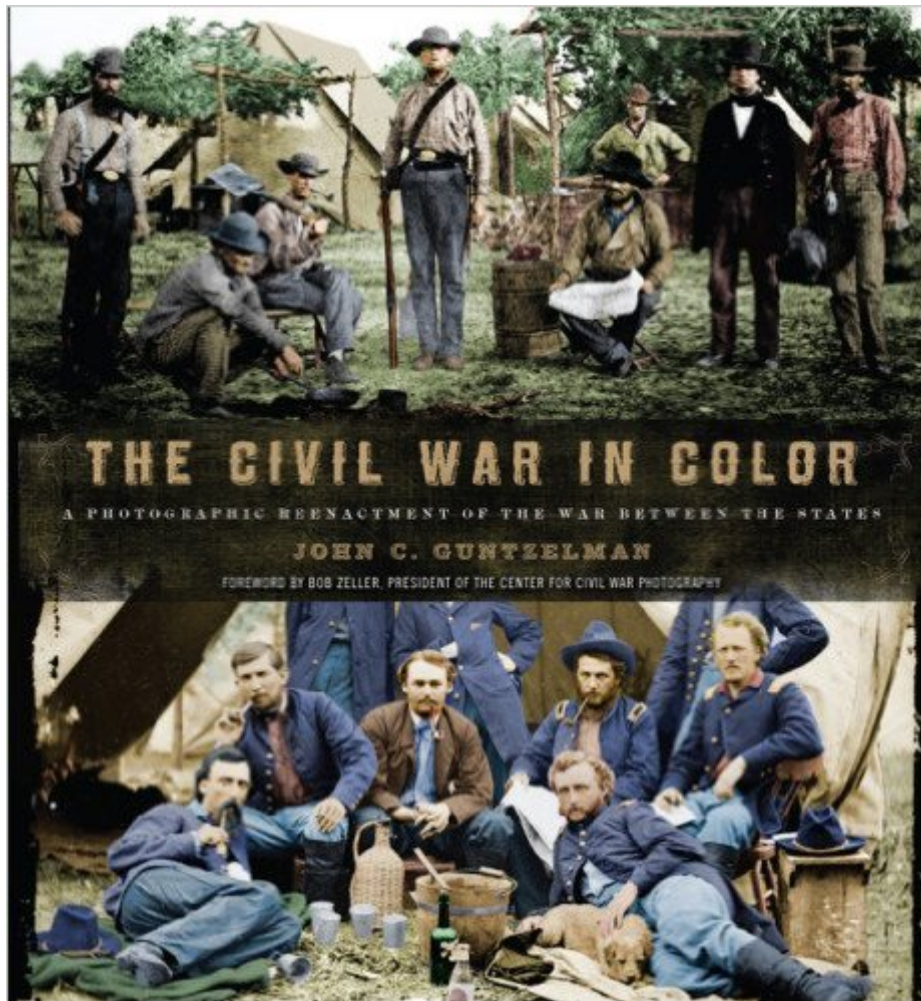


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The Civil War In Color: A Photographic Reenactment Of The War Between The States



Synopsis

“These photos are no longer just dusty old pictures, but rather have become very real moments in time from our collective past, frozen forever in color.” --John C. Guntzelman
The Civil War comes alive as never before in this extraordinary collection of colorized photographs from the era. Not only does it feature portraits of famous leaders and ordinary soldiers but also vignettes of American life during the conflict: scenes from urban and plantation life; destroyed cities; contested battlefields. The 200+ photographs, from the Library of Congress's archives, include both well-known and rarely seen images. Also inside--a fine art ready-to-frame photographic print of a stunning colorized Civil War photograph.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Colorizing photographs has been around nearly as long as photography itself. In efforts to transcend the limits of their medium early photographers would often hand tint their photographs with a broad use of various artistic techniques and tools. Some were more successful than others, but I think it's fair to say, no improvement made then, to the black and white, gray, and sepia toned images, rendered anything close to the lifelike photographic quality that we of the 21st century are accustomed to today. The vibrant colors of today's real life keep the gray and sepia monochromatic toned photographs of one hundred and fifty years ago at a removed distance from their modern day viewers. As an experienced cinematographer John C. Guntzelman has merged his knowledge of 21st century photographic technology and his passion for the American Civil War and created "The

Civil War in Color: A Photographic Reenactment of the War Between the States," a coffee table sized book of colorized images from the Civil War. Having carefully colorized some of the most iconic images from America's greatest conflict, Mr. Guntzelman has resurrected them from the dusty and murky past and gives them a reality and an immediacy that they have never had before. The colorized photograph of Alexander Gardner's February 5th, 1865 portrait of Abraham Lincoln (on page 24) looks as if he were sitting for the portrait today, and gives him a humanity that is somewhat removed from the original photograph. Guntzelman's colorizations are, however, somewhat hit-and-miss. The blue uniforms in portraits of Union Generals in the front of the book, such as Ulysses S. Grant, William Sherman, Philip Sheridan seem to be too much of a vibrant blue.

First I must say, that John C. Guntzelman did an amazing job of bring life to images taken 150 years ago. I have studied The American Civil War for the past 50+ years and am not going into the detail of how he did it, as that is discussed in other reviews. He does talk about viewing original uniforms and talking to "venders" for reenactors, who are FANATICAL on authenticity of materials and colors. I have been a Civil War collector for over 50 years and am also a "vendor" for The Hard Core Living Historians since 1979, I have viewed and photographed original uniforms and equipment at many Civil War Collector Shows, "private" collections and the "vaults" at West Point, The Smithsonian Institution and The Museum of the Confederacy. So, I am very knowledgeable on original Civil War Uniforms and Equipment. As I said, Guntzelman did an amazing job bring these images to life, but opening the book, one of the first set of pictures is of Federal Generals U.S. Grant, William T. Sherman, George Meade, and George A. Custer. I was TOTALLY disappointed in the color of blue he uses for their officer's uniforms. First, Federal officer uniforms were privately purchased by the individual, not issued by the government. They all tended to be a very darker blue than the enlisted man's uniforms, but in these images, as throughout the book, Guntzelman has the Federal officers uniforms (especially the coats) a bright blue, almost bordering on purple, which is a trait of "modern dye, not the indigo dye used during The Civil War. I was so disappointed I had a hard time looking at those images.

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